Library

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTON

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

W. WILSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

W. V. HARGREAVE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

for the Year

1952

Elsworth Bros. Ltd., Leeds-10. 39059

NORTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health:
W. WILSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor):
W. V. HARGREAVE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Royal Sanitary Institute Certificates:

1. Sanitary Inspector.
2. Meat and other foods.
3. Sanitary science as applied to buildings and public works.

Clerk:
Miss E. BOWES.

The School Clinic,
County Primary School,
Pocklington.
September, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Norton.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District for the year 1952.

Of infectious diseases, measles was the commonest. In all, 135 cases were notified, mainly in the latter half of the year. One case of acute poliomyelitis occurred. An epidemic of infective hepatitis (epidemic jaundice) occurred in Sherburn. Cases appeared to be mainly among the school children, although adults were also involved, including one teacher and several parents of infected children. The first case occurred in June and the epidemic continued throughout the summer and autumn. Fresh cases were still occurring at the end of the year. Until then 30 children and one teacher out of a total of 90 children and three teachers had had the disease.

Tables have been inserted giving details of the children protected against diphtheria. It is gratifying to note that approximately 74% of the child population are protected against this disease.

In conclusion, I should like to thank all members of the staff for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	94,132
Number of inhabited houses (estimate)	2,350
Registrar-General's estimate of population	7,577
Rateable Value	£24,254
Sum represented by a penny rate	£99

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	73	65	138
Illegitimate	2	5	7
	75	70	145
Birth Rate	19.1 per 1,000		
Illegitimate Rate	4.8% of total births		
Still Births	2		
Rate per 1,000 of the population	0.2		
Deaths of infants under one year	5		
Deaths of infants under four weeks	5		
Rate per 1,000 live births	34.5		

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Deaths	44	40	84
Death rate per 1,000			11.9

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1952.

	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths	Deaths of children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 registered live births
	(Rates per 1,000 civilian population)			
England and Wales	15.3	0.35	11.3	27.6
160 C.B.'s & Great Towns including London	16.9	0.43	12.1	31.2
160 Smaller Towns	15.5	0.36	11.2	25.8
London Admin. County	17.6	0.34	12.6	23.8

TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.
NORTON R.D.C.

Year	Crude Birth Rate	Corrected Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Corrected Death Rate	Infant Mortality
1948	20.6	—	11.5	—	13.6
1949	20.3	—	15.4	—	34.7
1950	15.2	17.9	11.1	10.1	54.0
1951	21.0	24.8	12.7	11.6	44.0
1952	19.1	22.5	11.9	10.8	34.5

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH IN NORTON R.D.C., 1952.

		Male	*Female*	*Total*
	All Causes	44	40	84
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	–	–	–
3.	Syphilitic disease	–	–	–
4.	Diphtheria	–	–	–
5.	Whooping Cough	–	–	–
6.	Meningococcal infections	–	–	–
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–
8.	Measles	–	–	–
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	–	–	–
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	–	–	–
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	–	–	–
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	–	–	–
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	–	–	–
16.	Diabetes	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	4	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	8	2	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
20.	Other heart disease	5	8	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
22.	Influenza	1	–	1
23.	Pneumonia	1	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	5	1	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	–	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	–	–	–
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	–	–	–
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	–	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	–	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	–	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	6	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	–	1	1
34.	All other accidents	–	–	–
35.	Suicide	2	–	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	–	–	–

TABLE SHOWING AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS DURING 1952.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
0–1 year	1	4	5
1–4 years	1	–	1
5–14 ,,	–	–	–
15–24 ,,	1	2	3
25–44 ,,	2	2	4
45–54 ,,	–	2	2
55–64 ,,	9	1	10
65–74 ,,	16	13	29
75 +	14	16	30
Totals	44	40	84

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Measles	135
Broncho Pneumonia ..	4
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

Cases of infections are admitted, when hospital treatment is necessary, to the Isolation Hospitals at York, Scarborough or Bridlington.

Tuberculosis.

Three new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

There were three deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. A male suffering from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis also died during the year, although Tuberculosis was not shown as the cause of death.

At the end of 1952, cases on the Tuberculosis Register were as follows :—

Pulmonary Male	19
Non-Pulmonary Male ..	8
Pulmonary Female ..	9
Non-Pulmonary Female ..	12
Total ..	48

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year 1952 :—

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1 year	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Totals
Number vaccinated ..	62	–	1	1	–	64
Number re-vaccinated	–	–	2	3	9	14

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

These tables give details of children who have completed a course of immunisation against diphtheria :—

(*a*) Number of children at 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of immunisation **at any time before that date** (*i.e.*, at any time since 1st January, 1938).

Age at 31.12.52 *i.e.*, born in year	Under 1 1952	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	5 to 9 1943–47	10 to 14 1938–42	Total Under 15
Number immunised ..	11	75	55	95	93	666	354	1349

(*b*) Number of children immunised **during the year ended** 31st December, 1952. (Figures also included in (*a*) above).

Under 5	*5 to 14*	*Total*	*Boosters*
113	2	115	9

The population in the age group 0–14 has been estimated to be 1,831. This means that at least 74% of children living in the district are protected against diphtheria.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Nursing.

A domiciliary nursing and midwifery service is available throughout the district, as part of the County Council's scheme under the National Health Service Act.

District Nurse Midwives are stationed at Norton, Sherburn, Scagglethorpe, Wetwang and Birdsall.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratories situated at Northallerton and Hull.

Routine samples of water are sent to the Laboratory at Hull for examination.

Ambulance Service.

Ambulances based at Scarborough, Filey and Malton are available and a car for sitting cases is sited at Weaverthorpe.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics are held each month at Sherburn and Rillington.

An Ophthalmic Clinic is held monthly in Norton.

Clinics for the treatment of venereal disease are held each week at York and Scarborough.

Hospitals.

General medical and surgical cases are admitted to hospitals at Malton, Driffield, Scarborough and York.

Maternity cases to the Westow Croft Nursing Home, Westow.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Water to the greater part of the district is supplied from four major regional schemes as follows :—

Sherburn Regional ..	Sherburn, Willerby, Ganton, East and West Heslerton, East and West Knapton.
Wintringham Regional ..	Wintringham, Rillington, Scagglethorpe, Scampston, Thorpe Bassett, North Grimston, Settrington.
Wharram Regional ..	Wharram, Duggleby, Kirby Grindalythe, East and West Luttons, Helperthorpe, Weaverthorpe, Foxholes.
Acklam Regional ..	Acklam, Scrayingham, Leppington, Westow, Howsham, Burythorpe, Langton.

Samples of water are submitted for bacteriological examination at intervals.

Housing.

Number of houses completed between 1945 and the end of 1952 :—

By Local Authority	260
By Private Enterprise	61

Houses in course of erection at the end of 1952 :—

By Local Authority	20
By Private Enterprise	4

NORTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT—JULY, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Norton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The provision of new houses still forms a major part of the work of a Local Authority and the problem of unfit houses is still awaiting a solution. As mentioned in my report of last year very little work is being carried out by private owners on repair or reconditioning, no licences are applied for and the use of the provision of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grants) does not appear to be at all popular. It may be, that in the near future the Minister will issue directions or the Government will introduce new legislation and provide incentives to make the reconditioning of older property more attractive or even compulsory. I am very pleased that you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, are taking steps to clear some of the small areas of condemned properties and to re-develop the sites. This may be a slow and difficult task, but when accomplished will reflect much credit upon you and prove that Rural Local Government is progressive and ready to tackle the housing problem quite as efficiently as the larger and more wealthy types of Local Authority.

The provision of sewerage schemes and disposal plants is our other major problem and it seems that we are at last to be allowed to make progress. Towards the end of the year we were informed that approval would be given to the Rillington scheme and this will relieve us of what has been an undoubted nuisance and worry for some years. Some of our smaller schemes provided for Housing Estates do not include provision for dealing with sludge and this still presents a major maintenance problem ; wet sludge is not acceptable to the farmers and it is most difficult to dispose of.

It is a pleasure to record that the pleasant relationship in the sphere of public health work has been maintained ; the loyalty and efficiency of both office staff and workmen has been much appreciated. To the Clerk of the Council and his staff I am indebted for their advice and co-operation, to you Ladies and Gentlemen for your continued interest and support.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. V. HARGREAVE,
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Notices served :—	
Informal Notices served	22
Informal Notices complied with	21
Statutory Notices served	—
Statutory Notices complied with	—
Letters sent out	1,080
Complaints received	17
Complaints confirmed	15
Interviews	107
Synopsis of Inspections made :—	
Total number of inspections made	1,169
Total number of inspections re-made	61
Dwelling-houses :—	
Water supply	16
Miscellaneous	47
Consolidated regulations	4
Infectious disease	1
Overcrowding	2
Clearance areas	27
Sanitary Conveniences :—	
Ashpits and privies	1
Water Closets	16
Pail and chemical closets	2
Refuse Disposal :—	
Tips	29
Drains and Sewers :—	
Inspections	101
Cesspools and septic tanks	109
Water tested	33
Public urinals	4
Shops Act :—	
Inspections	14
Factories :—	
With mechanical power	28
Without mechanical power	17
Outworkers	1
Building Sites	24
Food :—	
Inspections	13
Condemnations	—
Food Storage, Preparation, etc. :—	
Butchers' shops	24
Dairies	12
Fish friers	17
Ice cream dealers	12

Miscellaneous :—

Sewage Works	87
Work in progress	62
New buildings	174
Movable dwellings	12
Ponds and water courses	58
Rats and mice	13
Building licences	8
Petroleum licences	39
Schools	2
Animal and poultry	5
Public houses	7
Town and Country Planning	52

Summary of Improvements carried out under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Dangerous building demolished	1
Accumulations removed	3
Eaves spouts renewed	4
Drains and cesspools cleansed	46
Closets provided and repaired	24
Dustbins provided	6
Water Supply	10

Summary of Improvements carried out under Housing Acts :—

Walls and ceilings repaired	8
Fireplaces repaired	5
Roofs repaired	10
Floors repaired	17
Sinks provided	8
Yards paved	3
Dampness remedied	4

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Routine treatment of open ditches has been carried out as usual during cleansing operations. The refuse tips are remarkably free of rats ; no doubt this is due to the fact that no organic matter is deposited.

Eleven complaints were dealt with from private houses, farm houses, factories and hunt kennels. Two were major infestations, one was successfully cleared although difficult circumstances existed, the second one was being dealt with at the end of the year. Sewers in Westow are test baited but no infestation has as yet been detected. It is pleasing to note that the majority of farmers have entered into contracts with the County Agricultural Committee and that the Pests Officer now co-operates fully with us and notifies us of all action which he takes.

Shops Act, 1934.

Fourteen premises were inspected. No contraventions were noted.

Camping Sites.

No sites are licensed as such and only four movable dwellings are licensed, these being used as permanent dwellings.

Offensive Trades.

There are three Knacker's Yards within the district ; fat melting is carried on at two of these and the preparation of hound food at the third and it is here that regular treatment has to be exercised against rats.

Slaughter Houses.

There are no slaughter houses in use within the District. A large number of pigs are slaughtered annually for private use, but no notification of this is made to the Department and therefore no details can be given.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Thirty-three persons in the District are licensed under this Act to slaughter animals.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of bug infestation have been discovered.

Schools.

No further progress has been made in the much needed improvement of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities.

Factories.

Forty-five vists have been made under the Factories Act. In no case was it necessary to take action for contraventions.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.
 (1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 542
 (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 570
 (2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932 4
 (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 7
 (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
 (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 84
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.
 Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers 36
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 (*a*) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs *Nil*
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—
 (*a*) by Owners *Nil*
 (*b*) by Local Authority in default of Owners .. *Nil*

(*b*) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied *Nil*

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(*a*) by Owners *Nil*

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of Owners .. *Nil*

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made *Nil*

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit *Nil*

In addition to the above the demolition of six houses included in Clearance Orders made before the war was secured. There are still upwards of one hundred such dwellings occupied and in most cases they occupy central positions in the villages, detracting from the amenities to a great extent. The Council are now considering some of these for re-development ; this will tend to reduce the demand on agricultural land for new buildings, will keep the villages compact and will improve the appearance generally and will of course reduce the need for long extensions to public services such as water supply, electricity, sewerage and roadways.

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year (ascertained) 7

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 12

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 34

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 19

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. *Nil*

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector may consider it desirable to report *Nil*

Rural Housing Survey.

The position remains much the same as last year and I have nothing to add to the remarks which I then made, except that it is hoped that the various rumours circulating as to proposed Government action against unfit houses will soon become fact, for I am convinced that the unfit and sub-standard house is one of the most important problems facing Local Government today. The first step is obviously to complete the survey of all houses in order that we may have a complete picture of the problem.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply—Registration of Persons and Premises.

Number of premises registered as Dairies	3
Number of registered retail purveyors resident within the District	3
Number of registered retail purveyors resident outside the District	3
Number of inspections of Dairies	10

Designated Milks.

The following licences have been granted by the District Council :—

Sterilised (Supplementary)	1
(Dealers)	2
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	1
(Dealers)	4
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	1
(Dealers)	3

Meat and Other Foods.

No slaughtering is carried out, excepting pigs for home use and no carcases have been inspected. Twenty-four inspections of Shops and Butchers' vans were carried out.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Registration of premises under Section 14 :—

Ice Cream dealers	10
Ice Cream manufacturers	*Nil*
Meat Preparation	5
Fish Friers	4

Water Samples.

Thirty-six samples of water were submitted for Bacteriological examination. Six were of raw water, one was satisfactory and five unsatisfactory. Twenty-nine were of treated water, twenty-two being satisfactory and seven being unsatisfactory. One sample was broken in transit to the laboratory. Of the raw waters, three were from private wells and three from one public supply which was eventually corrected. Of the treated waters, the seven unsatisfactory samples were from one Regional Supply and it was found that the chlorinator had been temporarily out of order.

Public Cleansing.

1. Refuse Collection.

The monthly collection of unburnable refuse has continued to function satisfactorily.

2. Septic Tanks, Cesspools and Sewage Disposal.

In order to cope with the vast amount of work entailed in cleansing septic tanks and cesspools, it was necessary to purchase an additional pump. A force and lift diaphragm pump was acquired and this has proved to be an excellent machine and of great benefit. The Sherburn Housing Estate sewage works came into operation at the end of the year, but will be difficult to maintain until the flow of sewage is increased. Some trouble is being experienced at Westow, but experiments are now being carried out by which it is hoped to obtain a satisfactory effluent. The position at Willerby has become much worse and bi-weekly pumping is now necessary, the provision of the proposed sewage works is of vital urgency.

3. Open Ditches.

This work proceeds regularly throughout the year but owing to other work such as sewage works maintenance, septic tank cleansing, hedging and vacant building site mowing, has a tendency to get into arrears, especially during the summer months.